

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method comprising acts of:
providing a scheduler including a plurality of calendars used to determine
when a frame is to be moved from a flow queue;
providing at least one search engine to search the calendars;
defining a tic period within which searching is to be completed;
searching with the search engine the calendars so determined;
postponing search of any calendars so determined if postponed calendars
could not be searched within the tic period;
 wherein the act of determining calendars to be searched further includes
 the acts of:
 providing a first register for storing bits indicating calendars whose current
 time (Ct) has changed during a ~~tick~~ tic cycle;
 providing at least one counter with sufficient bits to count to 2^{m-1} , where
 m =number of bits required to represent number of location in calendar;
 providing at least one counter with sufficient location to count to $\log 2m$,
 wherein $\log 2m = 2^{??} = \text{max number of locations in a calendar}$;
 stepping the counter in accordance with a predefined pattern; and
 adjusting contents of the first register based upon contents of the counter.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 6~~ A method comprising acts of:

providing a scheduler including a plurality of calendars used to determine when a frame is to be moved from a flow queue;

providing at least one search engine to search the calendars;

defining a tic period within which searching is to be completed;

searching with the search engine the calendars so determined;

postponing search of any calendars so determined if postponed calendars could not be searched within the tic period;

tagging calendars whose search was postponed,

wherein tagging further includes the acts of providing a register with positions corresponding to the plurality of calendars; and

setting a bit in position corresponding to calendars whose search has been postponed in a particular tic cycle.

- 8-18. (Cancelled)